AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 24 ~~3~~ which comprises the second metal oxide and ytterbia ~~third metal oxides~~ in a ratio of the amount of the second metal oxide to ytterbia ~~the third metal oxide~~ of from about 0.75 to about 1.33.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 24 ~~3~~ wherein the second metal oxide is lanthana ~~and the third metal oxide is ytterbia~~.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~7~~ 25 which further comprises a bond coat layer adjacent to and overlaying the metal substrate and wherein the thermal barrier coating is adjacent to and overlies the bond coat layer.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The article of claim 7 wherein the thermal barrier coating has a thickness of from about 1 to about 100 mils.

Claim 9 (Original) The article of claim 8 wherein the thermal barrier coating has a strain-tolerant columnar structure.

Claims 10-11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The article of claim 25 ~~11~~ wherein the thermal barrier coating comprises the second metal oxide and ytterbia ~~third metal oxides~~ in a ratio of the amount of the second metal oxide to ytterbia ~~the third metal oxide~~ of from about 0.75 to about 1.33.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The article of claim 25 ~~15~~ wherein the second metal oxide is

lanthana ~~and the third metal oxide is ytterbia~~.

Claim 14 (Original) The article of claim 9 which is a turbine engine component.

Claim 15 (Original) The article of claim 14 which is a turbine shroud and wherein the thermal barrier coating has a thickness of from about 30 to about 70 mils.

Claim 16 (Original) The article of claim 14 which is a turbine airfoil and wherein the thermal barrier coating has a thickness of from about 3 to about 15 mils.

Claim 17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Original) The method of claim 26 ~~17~~ wherein a bond coat layer is adjacent to and overlies the metal substrate and wherein the thermal barrier coating is formed on the bond coat layer.

Claim 19 (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the ceramic composition is deposited by physical vapor deposition to form a thermal barrier coating having a strain-tolerant columnar structure.

Claims 20-21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 ~~21~~ wherein the ceramic composition that is deposited comprises the second metal oxide and ytterbia ~~third metal oxides~~ in a ratio of the amount of the second metal oxide to ytterbia ~~the third metal oxide~~ of from about 0.75 to about 1.33.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the ceramic composition that is deposited comprises lanthana as the second metal oxide ~~and ytterbia as the third metal oxide~~.

Claim 24 (New) A ceramic composition, which comprises:

1. from about 92 to about 95 mole % zirconia; and
2. from about 5 to about 8 mole % of a stabilizer component comprising:
    a. a first metal oxide selected from the group consisting of yttria, calcia, ceria, scandia, magnesia, india and mixtures thereof in amount of from about 3 to about 5 mole %;
    b. a second metal oxide of a trivalent metal atom selected from the group consisting of lanthana, and mixtures of lanthana with gadolinia, neodymia, samaria, or dysprosia, in an amount of from about 0.25 to about 2 mole %; and
    c. ytterbia in an amount of from about 0.5 to about 2 mole %.

Claim 25 (New) A thermally protected article, which comprises:

A. a metal substrate; and
A. a thermal barrier coating comprising:
    1. from about 92 to about 95 mole % zirconia; and
    2. from about 5 to about 8 mole % of a stabilizer component comprising:
        a. a first metal oxide selected from the group consisting of yttria, calcia, ceria, scandia, magnesia, india and mixtures thereof in amount of from about 3 to about 5 mole %;
        b. a second metal oxide of a trivalent metal atom selected from the group consisting of lanthana, and mixtures of lanthana with gadolinia, neodymia, samaria, or dysprosia, in an amount of from about 0.25 to about 2 mole %; and
        c. ytterbia in an amount of from about 0.5 to about 2 mole %.

Claim 26 (New) A method for preparing a thermal barrier coating on an underlying metal substrate, the method comprising the step of:

A. forming a thermal barrier coating over the metal substrate by depositing a ceramic composition, which comprises:

1. from about 92 to about 95 mole % zirconia; and
2. from about 5 to about 8 mole % of a stabilizer component comprising:
   a. a first metal oxide selected from the group consisting of yttria, calcia, ceria, scandia, magnesia, india and mixtures thereof in amount of from about 3 to about 5 mole %; and
   b. a second metal oxide of a trivalent metal atom selected from the group consisting of lanthana, and mixtures of lanthana with gadolinia, neodymia, samaria, or dysprosia, in an amount of from about 0.25 to about 2 mole %; and
   c. ytterbia in an amount of from about 0.5 to about 2 mole %.